

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II
VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II veterans who traveled to Washington, DC, on July 11, 2012 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II veterans the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. This memorial was built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on July 11 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Russell J. Abbott, Elizabeth M. Adamo, Kenneth H. Amdall, William B. Barnard, Philip Basic, Marvin D. Berns, Joseph A. Bertucci, Forest Black, Edward N. Boersma, Robert Bourdage, John A. Brodinski, Michael P. Cernyar, Leonard E. Chapp, Bernard J. Chesner, Daniel L. Chorney, Raymond E. Crotty, John A. Deora, Xenophon Doudalis, Robert C. Ellis, David Epstein, E. John Faassen, Natale Fazio, Peter A. Ferro, Ruthe C. Foster, Walter C. Gardynski, August Genge, Jr., Owen Gillespie, Helmuth Goering, Kent Goldbranson, W. Leonard Gregory, Lad Gregurich, John F. Gruber, Lewis Hague, Rueben W. Helander, Raymond F. Henders, James H. Hurley, Howard J. Jacklin, William N. Johnson, Raymond G. Kapinus, Edward Kelby, Vette E. Kell, Arthur M. Koblish, Ronald E. Kregel, Sophie E. Kulaga, James Lamont, Donald L. Lawler, Richard H. Leadbetter, Albert Lee, Howard D. Levinson, Philip J. LoMonaco, Louis Lowy, Raymond Lowy, Teddy A. Madej, Alvin B. Manheim, Randall E. McMinn, Eugene S. Mikos, John R. Minerick, Salvatore Morello, William R. Morrow, Glen E. Nelson, Henry L. Offerman, Edwin Ogonowski, Arthur Olsen, Calvin Parmele, Myron Petrakis, Raymond Anthony Pfeifer, Martin A. Poenisch, Daniel C. Reese, Amos John Roberts, John Patrick Roche, Ray Rooney, Frederick Rosenow, Eugene H. Seibert, Richard A. Siver, Donald E. Skelton, Charles A. Smith, Ora L. Smith, Richard L. Soderlund, Thomas E. Sullivan, Arthur R. Tessmann, Jasper C. Tromp, William John Unger, Jack Vollriede, Owen F. Wagener, Harry R. Warren, Joseph G. Wegrzyn, Oddie Wiley, Raymond A. Wilke, Ferguson L. Willis, William Fred Wilson, William F. Wolf, Arthur W. Youngberg.

HEALTHCARE REPEAL AND
WOMEN'S RIGHTS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, this bill will never become law, and it is a perfect symbol of the failure of this Congress.

Over the last two years we've voted more than 30 times to mess with the healthcare reforms in the Affordable Care Act. This Congress could barely bring itself to pass a transportation bill, yet it found the time to vote on the same issue 30 times.

The second biggest priority of this Congress appears to be the legislative war on women. We've taken at least 9 votes to take away rights and protections away from women, and specifically attacking women's health.

In short, this Congress has spent two years actively working against the rights of women and healthcare of American families.

Prior to the Affordable Care Act becoming law, being a woman was a pre-existing condition. Women were denied health insurance coverage because they were victims of domestic abuse, and when they were given health insurance coverage, they oftentimes paid more than men for the same level of care. Companies that have a large number of female employees faced higher healthcare costs than other companies—all because health insurance companies could, and did, get away with price discrimination.

The Affordable Care Act finally gave women equal rights when it came to healthcare, and it is the reason I rise to defend that lifesaving legislation today. I strongly oppose the political charade that is being carried out here today—and on behalf of every woman who is no longer a second-class citizen, I urge my colleagues to vote against today's bill.

SUPPORTING PROTECTION OF FEDERAL
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." College access and success are fundamental stepping stones toward economic security and global competitiveness. As policymakers, it is imperative that we support students in making college affordable so that our citizens and nation can prosper.

I strongly supported the passage by the House of the bipartisan Senate agreement to prevent a doubling of the student loan interest rates. Without this action before July 1, more than seven million students would have seen their interest rates double, resulting in an approximate \$1000 additional debt burden per student for this year. Indeed, failure to act would have added \$6.3 billion to students' debt burden in 2012, with 1.5 million African-American students and 1 million Latino students experiencing an additional \$1.5 billion

and \$1 billion in loan repayment costs, respectively.

Unfortunately, the agreement prevents the interest rate hike by cutting student financial aid, continuing a disturbing trend in which the Republican Leadership insists that low-income and middle-class students pay for federal student aid programs and deficit reduction. In the last two years, the Republican Leadership has insisted on multiple cuts to student aid, including: elimination of the interest subsidy for graduate student loans; elimination of the interest subsidy for the six-month grace period after finishing school; elimination of summer Pell grants; reduction in the number of semesters a student can receive Pell grants; erection of barriers to qualifying for the maximum Pell grant; and reduced eligibility for the minimum Pell grant award. These cuts require low-income and middle-class students to incur roughly \$20 billion in the cost of their federal loans and resulted in 145,000 students losing their Pell grants. Rather than viewing federal support for higher education as an investment in our nation, Republicans in the House prefer to subsidize oil companies that make tens of billions of dollars in profits rather than help low-income and middle-class students afford college. I firmly believe that we must help all citizens access the American dream, not just the most privileged. We must strengthen the system of student aid, not weaken it.

In addition to interest rates, there are multiple other education policies that lawmakers must support in order to prepare our youth for the future. For example, we must increase Pell Grants, which constitute a critical avenue by which low-income students access higher education. If Pell Grants are reduced in any way, attending and completing college will be beyond the financial reach of the vast majority of low-income students. Reductions in Pell also will have a disparate negative impact on racial and ethnic minority groups given that 46% of African Americans, 39% of Hispanics, 36% of American Indians, and 22% of Asian American and Pacific Islander undergraduate students rely on Pell, with African Americans representing about one-quarter and Latino Americans representing approximately one-fifth of Pell recipients. For the 2012–2013 academic year, the maximum Pell Grant will be at a historic low, covering less than one-third of the cost of a four-year degree. This is unacceptable.

Further, policymakers must also maintain consumer protections on student loans, such as income-based repayment as well as re-institute bankruptcy protections for private student loans. Income-based repayment is a critical improvement to financial aid that makes higher education affordable by limiting repayment based on the income and family size of borrowers. For most borrowers, loan payments end up being less than 10 percent of their income—or nothing if the borrower experiences financial difficulty. After 25 years of qualifying payments, the remaining loan amount is eligible for forgiveness. These Democratically-championed policies promise to help borrowers handle their student loan debt in a responsible manner as they enter the workforce, have families, and purchase homes.

Consumer protections related to bankruptcy for private student loan debt are equally important, but will require Congressional action. Unfortunately, without any hearings, in 2005 Congress made private student loans by for-